

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1 All threshold data applied to processing is read into a  
register so that threshold data read from threshold matrix memory  
can be recycled until the end of a scanning line for processing,  
5 and is selectively output to a plurality of comparison means for  
executing parallel comparison processing. The threshold data  
set in the register is shifted in order for repetitive use. The  
threshold data of the next scanning line is read into the register  
during the comparison processing, and upon completion of  
10 processing of one scanning line, comparison processing on the next  
scanning line is executed as pipeline processing. Threshold data  
read from the memory needs to be executed only once for each  
scanning line for processing, and threshold data can also be read  
during halftone data generation of the preceding line.

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